

Sedition Scourg'd,

OR A

VIEW

OF THAT

Rascally & Venemous
PAPER,

ENTITLED,

A Charge of High-Treason exhibited against OLIVER CROMWEL, Esq; for several Treasons by him committed.

[JOHN HILDMAN]

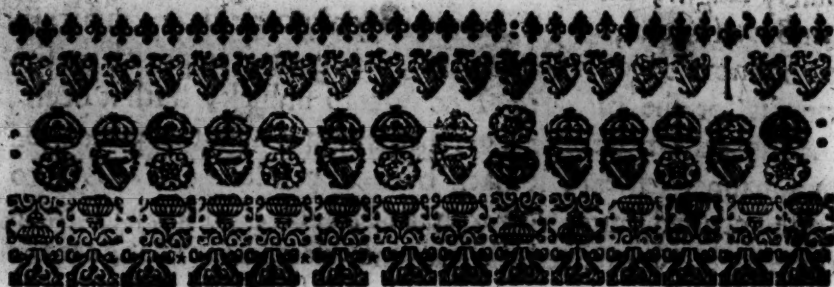
L O N D O N,

Printed by Hen. Hills, for Rich. Baddeley,
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Sedition Scourg'd,

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A View of that Rascally and Venemous
Paper, Entituled,

*A Charge of High Treason, exhibi-
tited against Oliver Cromwell,
Esq; &c.*

HE Invention of *Printing* was doubtlesse
at the first one of the most laudable and
profitable discoveries that could have been
made by man. By it *Letters*, which had
long been under the rubbidge of *Barba-
rism*, were restored to their former lustre,
and convey'd through *Europe*; by it the
Gospel, sullied and blemish'd by the corruptions of *Papery*,
(God

(God in his wisdom so ordaining) after it was a little more purely taught, became to be dispersed, maugre *Rome*, and her Superstitions; by it there is not only better communication of knowledge for the *present*, but greater hopes of preserving it for the *future*: And yet so unlucky hath it been, that since the mystery of it grew common, and the permission in a manner general, it hath been a pestilent *Midwife* to these accursed brats, *Error in the Church*, and *Sedition in the State*. Nor indeed if a man may dare to speak it, are the Governours themselves wholly blameless for such inconveniences. For *Printing* being ever accounted among the *Regalia* of every Government, as well as *Coyning*, &c. it should be looked on with such a jealous and strict eye; there should be such a circumspect care of prevention; and such painful pursuance of misdemeanours, as would be required against the most dangerous crimes. For *Likelling* (which is never better assisted than by this way) hath not only abroad in all ages found its several severities, but, even at home, is *Fellony at Common Law*, *Cooke Instit. part. 3. chap. 76.* for it may not only ruine the reputation of a private man, but introduce tumult and combustion in the State it self. And if the inward man be once disturbed, the outward will be, and if the imagination be troubled, the hands will soon be at work. But I have digressed in the very beginning, though I think not so far, but that those that neglect it, may find the inconveniences.

Amongst the other things which have been spawned in this age, both to the dishonour of our Maker, and the disturbance of mankind, there was lately published, and (as much as lay in them) dispersed, a piece of Paper, with this title,

A Charge of High Treason against Oliver Cromwell Esq; for several Treasons by him committed.

A Paper so fortissly impudent, and so ridiculously malicious, that were but the generality of the people in their senses, and not mad with desire of novelty and prepossession, it were so unworthy the taking notice of, that there were no greater

greater confutation of it, than to read it. But since that it happens in matters of this nature, that by the privateness of dispersion, and withall their aiming at great and eminent persons, they are conceived to contain in themselves somewhat considerable and of important consequence, I thought it worth my pains to give it a perusal, and not to let it bask without a whip at the tail. For though *Bridewell*, and the *Pillory*, may reach the *Offenders*, and the *Press* the *Papers*, yet it is only *Reason* that can encounter their *Folly*, and *solid Debate* that must overthrow their *Madness*.

And since the thing talks big, and threatens an impeachment of *High-Treason*, we shall take the pains once for all to teach him what it is, and shew him how much he misses of his aim and application.

Treason, *Crimen lese Majeſtatis*, as they say, or any offence, which aiming secretly at the lives of the *Supreme Governours* for the time being, or at the Government itself, was in the several times made *Capital*, but ever varied and altered according to the variations and turns of Government. That which concerned the Generality of Government, as *Coining of money*, *killing of a Justice upon the Bench*, &c. which concerns the very being of the publick peace, remaining firm, the other moveable and alterable, as for Example, by the 25. of *Edw. 3. chap. 2.* confirmed and quoted by many other Statutes, is *Treason* to compass the death of the *King*, *Queen*, or *Prince*; This the Act of *July* the *seventeenth 1649.* expressly repeals, enacting it *Treason* to do any thing against the form of the *Commonwealth*; but for *Coining*, &c. of money, confirms it. Nor indeed does this want its reason, for the persons and Governments determining, and ceasing, their protections also cease, and consequently the obedience in the Subject. For how can a man offend against a thing that is not in being? but for those material Supporters of Government, that is to say, for preserving the *Laws*, traffique among the people, and the like, they are things so necessary and immutable, that if they once

change or perish, a whole nation changes or perishes with them, whereas for the outward form of Government, it hath its several changes and shapes, according to the variation of times, and revolution of circumstances.

We shall have occasion to apply this in the following Discourse; to say only thus much for the present, that the Lord Generall, according to your own positions, hath done nothing against the Act of *Edm. 3.* and according to the positions of Reason, as little against the Act of *July 1649.* for he only chang'd the *Governours*, but the form of the *Republick* it self is preserv'd, and by this means establish'd. So that here we find him not to be so great a *Traitor*, but I believe upon view of the whole, a person quite the contrary.

For the People whom he calls *Lords* he must be taught, that though the people be the primary cause of Government, and the End thereof, and may by their consent, or disapprobation, either ratify or vacate any form thereof, yet for the administration and execution of Government, its a thing the practice wherof is not feasible by the people and the effects of it, if it were endeavor'd, would be monstrous beyond all imagination. For to imagine that all the people of this Nation, of so many different humours, interests, and parties, would consult together as a few men, is as impossible as that all the letters of a Printing-house carelessly cast abroad, should without any other assistance compose this Book. But if the people be the end of Government, that which most aims at the good of the people, comes the nearest that end; and since the people in regard of the variety of humours, can neither well determine, nor consent about the circumstances of their own safety, he certainly doth a very laudable action, that turnes doubtful emergencies, and dangerous junctures of time, into their advantage; It is as true as anything that is said, *Salus Populi Suprema Lex*; but to continue on the Metaphor, tis the Physician, that is to say, The Wise man in power, that must be the Judge, not the patient, that is to say, the Multitude, in danger. So that by priority of cause, we find the People Lord; Re-
more

mote, and *Lords intended*, but secondarily and in effect, we find the Governours *Lords effective*, and *executive*, the *Being* of the one being *Metaphysical* and abstracted, the *Being* of the other *naturall and active*. So that whoever offends against the *Magistrate* in being, trepasses against the *People* themselves, in the person of their *Magistrates*, the *Majesty* of the *Magistrate* being so join'd and allyed to the *majesty* of the *people*; that as the *Statuary* did his own picture in *Minerva's*, in such a manner, that if there were the least injury offered to his, it would also blemish that of the *Goddess*; even so, whoever blemishes a *Governour*, blemishes also the *people* goveraed, *Governours* being the understanding, the discourse, and the defence of the *people*.

But of all men he hath certainly made a very indiscreet choice in fixing upon this person whom he hath chosen, a man, that as he hath already acquired the Reputation of one of the greatest *Captains* of his time, or, for any thing I know, that ever was, so doubtless he will send down to *Posterity* a name as dear and venerable for the *Love* of his *Countrey* as any man of any nation. The hazards and exploits which he did in the first *War* are very well known, though *God* had not at that time lifted him up to this eminency, yet he that had seen him at *Marston-Moor* would have said our liberties were not a little obliged to him. Wonderfull was the presence of *God* with him at the defeat of *Hamilton*; And when once our liberty was restored, since we could not defend our selves without offending, how soon he over ran *Ireland* and *Scotland* with his *Conquests*, is unnecessary to tell here, when all *Europe* stands amazed at it. Yet even this man, that in all the Offices both of a *Citizen* and a *Souldier* hath given such faithful devours to his *Countrey*, while he is covered with *laurels*, and makes us enjoy the real fruit of his victories, must have his *Soul* pierc'd and transfix'd through, with all the venomous ugly slanders that the *Devil* can put into the mouth of a canker'd malice.

But general returns are like general criminations, such as
will

will neither satisfy nor fasten. To lay open therefore the importunate malice of this rascally paper, and withall the better to detect the vanity and insufficiency of his pretences, you may take it thus, with some brief animadversions, because the main things he insists on we have answered before, and for the form of it, we shall not much trouble our selves, since it is as easy, villanously to frame a Libel in the form of an *Indictment*, as it is *Atheistically*, in the form of a *Catechism*. Examples of both which we have had within these few dayes.

A Charge of High Treason exhibited against Oliver Cromwell, Esq; for several Treasons by him committed.

FOr that he the said Oliver Cromwell not having the fear of God before his eyes, but being instigated by the Devil, did Trayterously and Villanously by force of Arms, dissolve the late Parliament of the Lords the People of England, who they the said Parliament did represent as the Supreme Authority of the said Lords the people of England, and for that he the said Oliver Cromwell being a hired Servant to serve the Lords the people of England in the Conduct of them the said Lords the people of Englands forces, against their enemies, of their the said Peoples Liberties, Rights, and Privileges, and notwithstanding the high trust reposed in him, the said Oliver Cromwell, so to do, yet the said Oliver trayterously conspired many times, before the said Oliver did dissolve the said Parliament, by force of Arms wickedly and trayterously, thereby to render the said Lords the people of England utterly incapable for ever, to recover their Liberties, Just Rights, and Privileges, and did become Master of all the Strong holds, Arms, Forces, Magazines, Armies, Navyes, and mado, and still doth make

make no other use of them, but to over-awe and force the Lords the people of England aforesaid, to an Obediance and Compliance to his the said Oliver Cromwells Tyrannical will and pleasure, contrary to the intent of the trust reposed in him, and contrary to all the Solemn Ingagements, and Declarations of him the said Cromwel, which did invite the foresaid Lords the people of England to a chearfull contribution of their assistance to the carrying on of the Warr against the Common Enemies of their Liberties, Just Rights, and Privileges: And further, that he the said Oliver Cromwel, did in an unheard-of manner, summon and require upon great penalties, divers persons and members of the Lords the people of England, to take upon them the Supreme Authority of this Commonwealth, and accordingly upon the fourth of July they the aforesaid persons summoned by vertue of the aforesaid Traytors summons did appear at White-Hall, in or nigh the City of Westminster in the County of Middlesex, where they received an Instrument of Parliament containing these words, I Oliver Cromwel do appoint you (meaning the aforesaid persons summoned by his warrant, to make their appearance there, and then as aforesaid, that is to say, on the 4. day of July 1653. at White Hall) to be the Supreme Authority of this Nation, and all Territories or Dominions thereunto belonging; and notwithstanding he the said Oliver in so doing did commit the highest of Treasons that could be committed; for that he the said Oliver did not intreat the Lords the people of England, to elect their Representative, according to their undubitable rights, and that he would with their Army, stand by them as Servants, as in duty he and they (viz. the Army) ought to have done; the which if they had done, their late act of dissolving the Parliament, had not been Treason, because they (viz. the late Parliament) contrary to their trust, endeavoured to make themselves perpetual, contrary to the Law of the Land, and the intent of the trust reposed in them, and after the so many demands by Petitions of the Lords the People, for them to surrender their

their power to a new Representative equally chosen; now for that the said Oliver Cromwel did not restore the people rights in Election, upon the dissolving of the Parliament, he hath made that to be Treason, which otherwise would not have been Treason.

For the dissolution of the late Parliament, there hath been enough said to an fro about it, and it hath both by the Declaration of the Army, and other pieces writ, besides the Confession of the Grand Politique Informer himself, and this very Pamphlereer (though conditionally) as may appear by the last line of this Paragraph. The necessity of which thus appearing, I shall mention no otherwise, but only observe thus much, in passing, that it is not the dissolving of the late Parliament that sticks in their stomachs, for that they are satisfyed well enough with, but they are unsatisfyed because the Nation is not turn'd wild into an irregular and dangerous Liberty, and consequently permitted either to return into new quarrels, or reduc'd under its former Tyranny. For certainly, no man would else, considering the different impressions that the late Civil Warres have made upon the minds of the people, permit them to a choice of their own Governours, they being so divided and discompos'd, as for the present they are, and working and being unquiet as the Sea after a storm.

For the General being a *hired Servant to the people of this Nation*, tis very true, as well as every Magistrate; since in one Relation they are *Servants*, in another, *Masters*, *Servants in Intention*, *Masters in Execution*, since without Mastership they could not serve, and tis but the same thing under a different notion.

For *keeping of Armes in his hands*, and preventing such an Extravagant Election, as the Pamphlet aims at, is as much as to say in plain *English*, that he made choise of a very good way for the security of the people, and took care to put it in execution. For the former way being so dangerous, and the course

course chosen, which since was effected, and which we repent not of, it had been madness to have endeavoured an end, and yet neglected the means, or to say better, put the same means into other hands for contrary ends. And therefore since, if the people had made use of that freedom, there had been little reason to have trusted the elected, without great consideration of their persons and garbling, and that this was a business which could not be done but by a third power, it was rather thought fit, to stay, till he that can stop the raging of the Sea, would quiet the peoples minds, to select some particular worthy persons, of good life and conscience, out of the several Counties, to that High and Supreme Trust.

'Tis also false, that *they were summoned under great penalties*, when the very Summons it self, I cannot tell how printed at that time, speaks little more than a bare Summons, or Intimation; And for the reason of delivering a Parchment sealed, there hath been so much said of that matter, in the *Grand Politique Informer better Informed*, p. 10, 11. that it is needless to transcribe any thing hither.

When they were invested with this power, and begun to settle to the business, that is, advancing the *Gospel* in its purity, the Reglement of the *Law*, stating the *Accounts* of the *Nation*, and those corruptions which have infected all professions; they had turned their back from the Plough, if upon a few seditious addresses, of a rabble of *Apprentices*, and no body knows what, they had deserted so great a beneficial work, and to have suffered things to relapse into their former confusion.

Before I have done with this Paragraph, I must needs admire the *acumen* of the man, who says that my Lord *hash made that Treasonable*, which otherwise would not have been *Treason*. This is a subtilty above *Scotus* himself, a *Treason* conditionall, *ex post facto*, whereas our Law ever adjudges *Treason* out of the matter of fact it self, not by actions after the fact, and in moral things, the Act is judged good or bad according to present circumstantiation, not following

contingencies or subsequent Actions. But look whither he hath brought himself; He grants the dissolving of the late Parliament not to be criminal, but only by consequence, which consequence is invalid, and so justifies the action, and so confutes all he had said before.

But further, he the said Oliver Cromwel having not the fear of God before his eyes, and being instigated by the Devil, did contrive or caused to be contrived a certain book, called, A Copy of Draughts of Acts of Parliament, out of which this mock-Parliament are to take their lessons, and out of which the late Act of Marriages was taken, and in which is the invention of unheard-of Cruel Torment aswell for those that offend or oppose him and his confederates in this unheard-of Tyranny, as for the Transgressors of the laws of Civil Societies.

Par. 2. For this *Book of the Laws* which he talks of, he is to be acquainted, that My Lord General had not the least hand in that Book; for the late Parliament called a company of select Gentlemen together, to consider the abuses and corruptions of the Law. These Gentlemen, after long and patient debate, found the reformation of a great many other things very needful, and according to the directions of the Parliament, drew up several means of redress, which were entered into a Book, and presented ready for debate, and what necessity there was for taking away some corruptions of the Law, not the Law it self, is a thing so visible that it needs not be insisted on.

For the *Act of Marriages* which this man seems much to quarrel at, it would be known that marriage, being the means of the propagation of the people, and consequently of the continuance and preservation of Government, ought by all wise Statists to be lookd upon as the greatest concernment of it, because that it being a means of succession, and the onely direction

direction of Inheritance, there depend so many formal circumstances on it, and so many inconveniences are prevented by a *Publick Solemnization* thereof, as there is scarce in any other thing belonging to a Commonwealth. And that this should be put into the hands of the *Civil Magistrate*, whose power *Circa Sacra*, we shall not now meddle with, is neither so strange nor ridiculous, since the essence of marriage being promised, and that promise fit to be known and registered in order to *Legitimation*, and prevention of *stealths* and carryings away, there cannot be any person fitter than the *Civil Magistrate*. And we shall leave it proposed to the *Divines*, whether there be any thing in *Scripture*, or by direct consequence from *Scripture*, that restrains the Solemnization of *Marriages* to the *Ministry*, but that it is rather a devise set a foot by the *Popes*, to enrich their *Clergy*, at the time that *Christianity* became to be clouded and infected with *superstition*.

And further, the said Cromwel hath by himself, and others, forced this mock-Parliament to take away the body of our Laws that hath been our Bulwark, and defence, and only weapons counted against absolute-ness, to the end and intent that thereby the Lords the People of England, may be subject to the will, pleasures, and intended Tyranny of him the said Cromwel; All which considered, we humbly pray, the Lords the people of England, that Justice may be had against this abominable Traytor and Enemy to God and Mankind, Oliver Cromwel.

Par. 3. This charge were a heavy one indeed

if it were true, but tis so monstrously false, as there needs not much to be spoken unto it; for what benefit could the *General* make by alteration of the *Lawes*, since in every action every man will propose to himself one thing or other? or where did he ever appear in any action or any debate tending this way? But to matter of fact; The lawes (which he calls our *Butmark* and defence) are so far from being taken away, that the *superfluties* and *inconveniences*, the tedious and vexatious proceedings are only taken away, to as much prejudice to the life of the Law it self, as tis to purge a gross body of its noxious and corrupt humours.

And to the end that this may be effected, it is desired, that upon the 16. of October 1653. being the next comming, that all the people of England would as one man, as well Masters Sons, as Servants, repair into every County Town, or some other convenient place within England and Wales, appear armed with such weapons of war as with conveniency they can, then and there to elect and choose such and so many persons as the people of the respective Counties, Cities and Boroughs, wont to chuse to represent them in Parliament.

And further we do hereby declare, that such of the Army as shall join in this our shaking off this yoke, shall be received into the favor of the Lords the people of England, and be continued in their trusts of Armes; for our Encouragement, we know this of old since man was placed upon the earth, that the triumphing of the wicked is but short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment; for a long time their Tabernacle have only prospered, though they be robbers, and such as provoke
God

God, and that make the upright man the greatest sufferer, yet for all this the multitude of their lies shall not make all men hold their peace.

The close of this business shewes the aim of the writer of it, that is to say, a double sedition, both of the *People* and *Souldiery*, so extravagant in the proposition to the people, that it hath produced no other effect, than the remembrance of the bare proposition of his folly; so foolish in that to the *Souldiery*, that it is not like to be entertained with any thing by them but laughter. For my part, to either of them, I have only this to say; That since it hath pleased the Lord to make his own arm bare, and to conduct us through all these changes and turnes of *Providence*, into this estate of *Liberty* wherein we now stand; it behooves us as men following the meek and gentle doctrine of *Christ* himself, not only to walk in *humility* and obedience to the *present powers, who are of God*, but also to be duly and sincerely thankful to that hand which hath taken off from our necks that iron yoke of *Monarchy*. and put us into that condition of *Liberty*, which we and our posterity, if we can but know our own happiness, are likely, with Gods blessing, to enjoy.

The End.